GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2654
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Pollution in Oceans
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existence of a number of sea creatures has become endangered due to excessive levels of pollution in the oceans and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether 75 whales were found dead on a beach in Tamil Nadu on 11-12 January, 2016 and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether extraction of gas and oil exacerbates the danger of oceanic pollution and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether scientists have expressed apprehensions that the effluents being dumped by 50,000 factories into large rivers flow into the oceans and pollute the environment of the oceans; and
(e) if so, the details of the steps being taken to check such pollution?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per the information received from National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai, there is no scientific evidence to attribute the marine organisms being endangered or extinct due to pollution. However, scientific studies claim that marine animals such as the whales, sharks and dolphins are threatened due to over exploitation. The report published by Zoological Survey of India 2011 indicates that 14 species in marine realm which includes sharks, whales, sea cow, corals are endangered or vulnerable.

(b) As per the information gathered from NCSCM on 11th January 2016 around 81 pilot whales were washed up on the coast from Kallamozhi to Manapad, Tuticorin, East Coast of Tamil Nadu.

(c) As per the information received from NCSCM and CPCB there is no information with regard to oceanic pollution arising due to extraction of gas and oil exacerbates.

(d) The monitoring of marine pollution under "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System" (COMAPS) Programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) indicates high levels of pollution at certain stretches along east and west coast which include, Tuticorin, Cuddalore, Pondicherry, Ennore mouth, Bhimavaram, Kakinada, Gangavaram, Visakhapatnam, Paradip & Hooghly, Hazira, Bassein, Versova, Mahim, Thane, Mumbai harbour mouth, Mandovi, Zuari, Mangalore & Kochi.

(e) The steps taken to check pollution in marine waters include enactment and implementation of the Coast Guard Act, 1978, Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011. Apart from the above, Indian Coast Guards have formulated National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan for combating oil pollution in seas and implementation of the COMAPS programme by MoES to monitor coastal waters.

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